DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RLS DATE 10/14/92
RDS-1 EXEMPT DATE
ENDORSE EXCISE MARKING
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
IGA-11 AID-05 /092 W
------------------------060516 2409222 /12
P R 2409062 SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2888
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O.12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CT
SUBJ: PRESIDENT BOKASSA AND THE PRESS

1. ONE OF MOST ENCOURAGING ASPECTS IN FIRST DAYS OF BOKASSA'S PRESIDENCY HAS BEEN EASY AND OPEN MANNER WITH WHICH HE HAS DEALT WITH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PRESS. CONTRAST WITH PARANOIA AND SECRECY [illegible] DOMINATED ERA IS DRAMATIC AND EVEN A BIT GIDDY. IN ADDITION TO [illegible] INVITED, PRESIDENT HAS ALSO PERSONALLY ORDERED USE AND WITH UNLIMITED FILM. IN REPLY TO REPORTED ABSENCE OF FOREIGN PRESS IN BOKASSA'S [illegible] WHO HAD CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH [illegible] PLANNED TO [illegible] AND OPEN MARKET. [illegible] AT LEAST MINIMAL [illegible] AND ACCESS.

2. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ARE BEGINNING TO PRAISE BANGUI AND [illegible] IN ABSENCE OF ANY KIND PLACES IN REGION

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ACTIVITY. LOOK TO IN [illegible] AND SECURITY

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C. AN INTERVIEWS THROUGHOUT CITY.

3. HOWEVER LAUDABLE, TOTAL OPENNESS WITH MEDIA MAY POSE FUTURE PROBLEMS FOR BACKO PARTICULARLY AS EXILED OPPOSITION LEADERS RETURN TO BANGUI. PUBLIC BROADCAST OFCRITICISM IN FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT AND CONTINUATION IN POWER OF MEMBERS OF OLD REGIME MAY HAVE DISQUIETING EFFECT ON CENTRAL AFRICANS WHO LONG ACCUSTOMED TO LITTLE MORE THAN ADULATION OF TRA EMPEROR. TO THIS POINT, HOWEVER, BACKO'S EASY AND FORTHCOMING CANDOR HAS BEEN EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED.COOKE

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